

CONTENTS

Page No.

Acknowledgements

Abbreviations

Prologue

i - xix

PART I : SRVNTA RITUALS

| | |
|---|------|
| <u>CHAPTER I. ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT OF RITUALS</u> | 1-52 |
| I. Meaning of Ritual | 1 |
| II. Purpose and types of Rituals | 2 |
| i) Individual or Private rituals | 4 |
| ii) Family Welfare Rituals | 5 |
| iii) Society Welfare Rituals | 6 |
| iv) Dakṣinā rituals | 6 |
| v) Prāyaścitta rituals | 7 |
| vi) Ābhicārika rituals | 7 |
| III. Origin of rituals | 7 |
| i) Refutation of Theory of Spiritism | 8 |
| ii) Refutation of Theory of Group-spirits | 9 |
| iii) Refutation of theory of Naturalism | 9 |
| iv) Origin of Rituals in Vedic-cult | 9 |
| v) Pomp and Show | 12 |
| vi) Availability of things | 13 |
| vii) Ābhicārika Practices | 13 |
| viii) Belief in souls | 14 |
| ix) Payments to be made | 15 |
| x) Removal of errors | 15 |
| IX. Development of Rituals | 16 |
| i) Samhitā period | 16 |
| ii) Brāhmaṇic period | 19 |
| iii) Srauta Sūtra period | 21 |
| iv) Grhya Sūtra period | 22 |

| | |
|--|-------|
| V. Factors Influencing the Rituals | 23 |
| i) Ancient Practices | 23 |
| ii) Geographical factors | 25 |
| iii) Morality | 26 |
| iv) Economic position | 26 |
| v) Political situations | 27 |
| vi) Cultural forces | 29 |
| VI. Ritual and Religion | 29 |
| i) Ritual Exhibits the Religion | 29 |
| ii) Ritual & Religion as body and soul | 30 |
| iii) Ritual dominates Religion | 31 |
| VII. Ritual and Mythology | 32 |
| i) Opening Secrets | 34 |
| ii) Providing Etymology | 34 |
| iii) As Arthavādas | 35 |
| iv) Supporting the taboo rituals | 35 |
| v) Showing motive of the ritual | 36 |
| vi) For signifying the ritual | 36 |
| vii) For the origin | 36 |
| VIII. Ritual and Magic | 37 |
| i) Symbolic relationship | 40 |
| ii) Personal profits in the background | 40 |
| iii) For Agricultural wealth | 41 |
| iv) Against Enemies | 41 |
| v) To ward off the evil spirits | 41 |
| vi) Against the performer | 41 |
| References | 43-52 |

| | |
|--|---------|
| CHAPTER -II : DESCRIPTIVE ACCOUNT OF SRUTI RITUALS | 53-156 |
| A. Rituals of Havir-yajña Samsthā | 53- 78 |
| i) Darsapūrnāmāsa | 53 |
| ii) Pindapitṛyajña | 58 |
| iii) Sānnayya in the Darṣṭi | 60 |
| iv) Dakṣayana | 62 |
| v) Āgrayana | 63 |
| vi) Agnyādhāna | 64 |
| vii) Punarādhāna | 66 |
| viii) Agnihotra | 67 |
| ix) Cāturmāsya | 69 |
| x) Nirūḍha-Pasubandha | 73 |
| xi) Sauitrāṇī | 76 |
| B. Rituals of Soma-Samsthā: | 79-116 |
| i) Agni stoma | 79 |
| ii) Dvādaśāha | 86 |
| iii) Gavāmayana | 88 |
| iv) Vājapeya | 91 |
| v) Rāja sūya | 95 |
| vi) Agnicayana | 98 |
| vii) Asvamedha | 103 |
| viii) Purusamedha | 107 |
| ix) Sarvamedha | 108 |
| x) Pitrmēdha | 109 |
| xi) Ekāhas | 111 |
| xii) Bhīnas | 112 |
| xiii) Sattras | 114 |
| xiv) Pravargya | 115 |
| References | 117-156 |

PART II : SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY

| | |
|---|----------|
| <u>CHAPTER III: PERFORMER OF SRAUTA RITUALS</u> | 157- 176 |
| I) Yajamāna: as a pivot | 157 |
| II) Eligibility | 159 |
| III) Dikṣā | 161 |
| I) Various times | 162 |
| II) Various Dikṣās | 162 |
| a) Offerings | 162 |
| b) Wearing Lotus flowers | 162 |
| c) Recitation of Mantras | 162 |
| d) Fasting | 163 |
| e) Offering Puroḍāśa | 163 |
| f) Avāntara-dikṣā | 163 |
| IV) Rituals of Dikṣā | 163 |
| V) Restrictions | 164 |
| I) Deeds: to act upon | 165 |
| II) Prohibited deeds | 165 |
| VI) Ambitions | 166 |
| I) General Welfare | 166 |
| II) Individual Welfare | 167 |
| VII) Activities of the Yajamāna | 167 |
| VIII) Expiations | 170 |
| References | 171- 176 |
| <u>CHAPTER IV : WOMEN IN SRAUTA RITUALS</u> | 177- 195 |
| I) Eligibility | 177 |
| II) Dikṣā | 179 |
| III) Restrictions | 180 |
| IV) Ambitions | 181 |

| | |
|--|-------------|
| V) Participation of Yajamāna's wife | 182 |
| a) Rituals to be performed only by the wife | 182 |
| b) Rituals to be performed along with her husband | 185 |
| c) Rtviks also join | 186 |
| d) Wives | 187 |
| VI) Other women | 188 |
| VII) Expiatory Rituals | 189 |
| References | 191-195 |
| <u>CHAPTER V: OFFICIANTS OF SRUTI RITUALS</u> | 196-217 |
| I) Number of Rtviks | 196 |
| II) Qualities of the Rtviks | 198 |
| i) Varna | 198 |
| ii) Physique | 199 |
| iii) Intellect | 200 |
| iv) Heredity | 200 |
| III) Selection of Rtviks | 201 |
| i) Selection of four or all | 202 |
| ii) Verses of selection | 202 |
| IV) Functions of the Rtviks | 203 |
| A) Adhvaryu and his Assistants | 203 |
| B) Brahmā and his Assistants | 206 |
| C) Hota and his Assistants | 207 |
| D) Udgata and his Assistants | 207 |
| V) Functions of Rtviks along with ^{the} Yajamāna and his wife | 208 |
| VI) Functions of Rtviks as substitutes | 209 |
| VII) Adhvaryu as the main performer | 210 |
| References | 212-217 |

| | |
|--|----------------|
| CHAPTER VI: PARTICIPATION OF DIFFERENT VARNAS IN ŚRAUTA RITUALS | 218-237 |
| I) Brāhmaṇas | 219 |
| i) As Rtviks | 220 |
| ii) Sacrifices for themselves | 220 |
| iii) Rules | 221 |
| iv) Brāhmaṇas in the Rituals | 221 |
| II) Kṣatriyas | 222 |
| i) Eligibility | 222 |
| ii) Ambitions | 223 |
| iii) Kṣatriyas in the Rituals | 223 |
| III) Vaiśyas | 224 |
| i) Eligibility | 224 |
| ii) Vaiśyas in the Rituals | 224 |
| IV) Sūdras | 225 |
| i) Sūdras in the Rituals | 226 |
| ii) Disallowed | 227 |
| iii) Allowed | 227 |
| V) Mixed Varnas & others | 228 |
| VI) Relatives of the Yajamāna | 230 |
| References | 232-237 |
| CHAPTER VII: LARGESSE (DAKṢINĀ) IN ŚRAUTA RITUALS | 238-257 |
| I) Meaning of Dakṣinā | 238 |
| II) Nature of Dakṣinā | 239 |
| III) Time for distributing Dakṣinā | 241 |
| IV) Kinds of Dakṣinā | 242 |
| i) Metallic | 243 |
| ii) Implements and weapons | 243 |
| iii) Property | 243 |

| | |
|--|----------------|
| iv) Edibles | 244 |
| v) Animals | 244 |
| vi) Others | 244 |
| V) Debarred Dakṣinās | 245 |
| VI) Purpose of Dakṣina | 246 |
| VII) Result of Non-payment | 247 |
| VIII) Dakṣinā: As a Socio-Economic Arrangement of Vedic Society | 247 |
| References | 252-257 |
| CHAPTER VIII: MATERIALS, IMPLEMENTS ETC. USED IN SRUFTA RITUALS | 258-281 |
| Section A: Offering Materials | 258 |
| I) Nature and kinds of Sravata-materials | 258 |
| i) Milk and its preparations | 258 |
| ii) Grains and their preparations | 259 |
| iii) Animals | 262 |
| iv) Vānapratyām | 263 |
| v) Soma | 263 |
| II) Purpose of Using different Materials | 264 |
| III) Substitution of Materials | 265 |
| i) Incompetency of a material | 266 |
| ii) Non-availability of a material | 266 |
| iii) Specific-injunctions | 266 |
| iv) Hatred towards killing of the animals | 267 |
| v) Aesthetic consciousness | 267 |
| Section B: Implements | 267 |
| a) Nature and kinds of the Implements, weapons etc. | 267 |
| i) Earthen | 267 |
| ii) Vānapratyām | 268 |

| | |
|---|---------|
| iii) Related to Animals | 270 |
| iv) Metallic | 270 |
| b) Purpose of using different implements, weapons etc. | 270 |
| <u>Section C: Materials, Implements etc. of different Rituals</u> | 271 |
| i) Agnyādhēya | 271 |
| ii) Punarādhāna | 271 |
| iii) Darśapūrṇamāsa | 271 |
| iv) Agnihotra | 271 |
| v) Āravayana | 272 |
| vi) Pindapitravyajña | 272 |
| vii) Pasubandha | 272 |
| viii) Agniṣṭoma | 272 |
| ix) Agnicayana | 272 |
| x) Vājapeya | 273 |
| References | 274-281 |
| <u>CHAPTER IX: EXPIATIONS</u> | 282-303 |
| I) Formation and meaning of Prāyascitta | 282 |
| II) Discrepancies leading to bad-effects | 283 |
| III) Nature of Prāyascittas | 284 |
| IV) Types of performing the Prāyascittas | 285 |
| V) Various options in Expiatory rituals | 286 |
| i) in performance of a ritual | 286 |
| ii) in material | 287 |
| iii) in daksinā | 287 |
| iv) in deities | 287 |

| | |
|---|---------|
| VI) The chief-performer of Expiations: Brahma | 288 |
| VII) Expiations for the Yajamana | 289 |
| VIII) Expiations related to various accessories | 290 |
| i) Fires | 290 |
| ii) Offering materials | 292 |
| iii) Implements | 294 |
| iv) Animals | 295 |
| References | 299-303 |
| <u>DIALOGUE</u> | 304-310 |
| <u>Bibliography</u> | i-xiii |